

Communities of Opportunity Interim Governance Group

Monday, March 9, 2015, 5:30-8:30pm

Blueacre Seafood, 1700 7th Ave, Marlin Room, Seattle

Present:

Michael Brown, The Seattle Foundation

Deanna Dawson, Sound Cities Association

Bao-Tram Do, The Seattle Foundation

David Fleming, PATH

Hilary Franz, Futurewise

Patty Hayes, Public Health-Seattle & King County

Alice Ito, The Seattle Foundation

Betsy Jones, County Executive's Office, King County

AJ McClure, DCHS and PHSKC

Cheryl Markham, Department of Community and Human Services

Gordon McHenry, Jr, Solid Ground

Jeff Natter, Pacific Hospital PDA

Aaron Robertson, The Seattle Foundation

Michael Woo, Got Green

Kirsten Wysen, King County, Public Health-Seattle & King County

Absent:

Paola Maranan, The Children's Alliance

Adrienne Quinn, King County Department of Community and Human Services

Welcome and Agenda Review

Communities of Opportunity (COO) Grantees

- Three place-based awards to Rainier Valley (HomeSight and partners), Seatac-Tukwila (Global to Local and partners), and White Center (White Center Community Development Association (CDA) and partners) sites were announced in February.
- Monthly co-design meetings March-June, will include identification of outcomes and agreement on evaluation framework and indicators, including indicators of institutional change such as improvements in contracting procedures.

COO Planning Grants

- Skyway (Skyway Solutions and partners) and Auburn (Washington CAN! and partners) have been selected to receive planning grants.
- Planning grants will help organizations increase readiness and build capacity to be better positioned for potential future funding.

- Staff have had conversations with organizations about planning grants, and they are receptive to receiving planning grants.
- Organizations that receive planning grants are not expected to maintain the same level of partnerships and scope of work proposed in the original application; however, are expected to be accountable, and develop outcomes and timeline for use of funds.
- IGG approved providing two planning grants, each in the amount of \$75,000, over a one-year grant period, with the possibility (but not a guarantee) of renewal for a second year.

Living Cities

- Proposal for implementation grant due on May 1 (edit, KW, 3/25/15, we had originally thought it would be due May 15). Request amount is likely \$250,000 to \$300,000 per year, for three years, plus low-interest and commercial rate loans.
- COO is different than other Living Cities grantees in that the other cohort members are focused in cities whereas COO is county wide.
- COO is not solely a place-based approach; it is also policy and systems focused, and must remain inclusive of the policy and systems change goals and a broader reach than solely the three neighborhoods.

Co-design—key COO outcomes and indicators

Living Cities will provide training in Results Based Accountability (RBA) method.

March 25-26 training/work sessions

- The three sites may well end up working on different indicators, since they are acting on community driven priorities. The breadth of “health, housing and economic opportunity” is pretty wide, so again the sites may end up with different indicator focus areas.
- There will be different indicators for sites but should have some overall criteria, common measurement system but allowing sites to select their own measurements/indicators. There is an advantage in the observation of three different communities, as well as evaluating successes and changes at the system level.
- There is value in the learning lab, creating indicators that are informed by the communities. This should be valued and lifted up for others to learn from.
- General concern among IGG members about choosing indicators and not to get out too far in front of the co-design process with the three sites.
- The site partners will be able to state how their community engagement will play out; and how their strengths and capacities need to develop. They are doing the work; they may need help with the terminology and language of evaluation, outcomes and indicators.
- What kinds of things do we want to evaluate? Voices and experiences are the qualitative piece of data, more powerful than the numbers itself. It’s important for COO to not be driven by outcomes. Each community needs to identify its outcomes. The overall success will be the process that we set in place, which allows the real change and accomplishment.

- What makes COO different from other initiatives working on place-based efforts is “how” we are working: catalyzing and aligning resources to flow to these places, using a local cross-sector collaborative partnership—not just one organization or one sector, and acting on community-defined priorities (the 3 Cs). So, it will be important to track indicators of these three process approaches, as well as the eventual people-based indicators we will hopefully influence.

Harwood Institute

- Has an association with Living Cities, so Living Cities is likely to provide some resources to fund technical assistance provided by Harwood, for example to conduct a training as a COO learning community activity.
- A consultation and training by Harwood could help us to go deeper with the communities, to identify points of synergy and learn about what has been done and how.

Discussion about sunseting the Interim Governance Group and establishing the on-going Governance Group

- The value of having site partners on the Governance Group was discussed and re-affirmed.
- Suggestion was made to consider retaining the Interim Governance Group composition and adding representatives from the three site partners. This will require further discussion.
- Each of the three COO site partnerships will have representation in the ongoing Governance Group, in addition to having their own local governance structure.
- Sites will share information and work towards the big picture together, and also each develop and maintain separate local governance, which is a key demonstration of how we are doing business differently.
- The Governance Group may have to navigate through challenging funder/grantee dynamics; but welcome explicit conversations to have honest dialogue and shared accountability.
- It was agreed that individuals would not be recruited to the Governance Group for subject matter expertise alone; but rather could be included in a pool of potential technical assistance providers.
- Potential new Governance Group members could include persons who would bring knowledge and influence in key arenas such as jobs and the private sector, which would be useful in moving forward.
- Additional Governance Group members could bring different perspectives, ask key questions, help shape outcomes in specific communities, and provide insights to shift how various sectors and systems operate.

Future IGG meetings should discuss:

- Key governance role and functions: Distinguish between the overall governance role and the oversight of each of the three site partnerships. Distinguish between bringing expertise to the three sites through technical assistance contracts and bringing countywide policy and systems influence and a shared equity agenda through the IGG. Prevent the overarching value of COO from being taken over by a narrow results-driven focus at the community level. Retain flexibility

and ensure the Governance Group takes ongoing guidance from the communities as part of its adaptive leadership.

- Composition of the Governance Group—a table that will keep King County and The Seattle Foundation funders accountable, ensure COO is useful to communities, and prevent backsliding to “business as usual.”
- Do a gap analysis comparing the sites’ priorities with IGG members’ spheres of influence to identify the need for potential candidates for future participation in the Governance Group, including those who will bring the strengths necessary to steward and drive forward the COO effort beyond the minimum 3-5 years of the initiative.

Best Starts for Kids Levy update

- Best start for kids will have a strong focus on outcomes.
- Messaging and communication is important, so that it’s clear that this is not an education levy.
- The intent and integrity of COO process and governance will be maintained, while connections to the prevention and early intervention priorities are supported.

Next IGG Meetings:

- March 25, 1-5pm to include RBA training; and optional March 26, RBA training Day 2, 9-5pm
- April 27, 2pm to 4pm
- Monthly future meetings in 2015 to be scheduled.